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Current Class: [REDACTED]
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Document Number: 1984STATE031575

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PAGE 01 STATE 031575
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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 017591

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING TEXT CONTAINS FINAL TEXT OF THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. ANY RELEASE OF THE REPORT IS EMBARGOED UNTIL ITS PUBLICATION BY CONGRESS. REFTTEL CONTAINS INSTRUCTIONS ON DISSEMINATION OF THE REPORT. HA WILL SEND NOTIFICATION OF THE RELEASE DATE, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE DURING FEBRUARY. ALL DRAFT COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL, EVEN AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL VERSION. BEGIN TEXT:

IN 1983 THERE WAS A DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS AS ARGENTINA SUCCESSFULLY MADE THE TRANSITION FROM A MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO AN ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS ALSO A CONTINUOUS EXPANSION OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ACTIVITY. POLITICAL DEBATE WAS FREE

PAGE 02 STATE 031575

AND OPEN, AND ALL PARTIES HAD FULL ACCESS TO THE MEDIA. THERE WAS A HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

PRIMARIES, THE CAMPAIGN, AND THE OCTOBER 30 ELECTIONS.

DR. RAUL ALFONSIN OF THE RADICAL CIVIC UNION WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT ON OCTOBER 30 WITH 52 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND WAS INAUGURATED ON DECEMBER 10. OVER 14,000 NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, AND LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE ALSO CHOSEN.

DURING 1983 THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS TOWARD RESPECT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. PRESS RESTRICTIONS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY RELAXED AND CONTROLS ON THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA, LARGELY GOVERNMENT-OWNED, WERE LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE 1976 MILITARY COUP. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH DISPLAYED INCREASING INDEPENDENCE FROM THE EXECUTIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN PRIOR TO THE TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN ELECTED GOVERNMENT THE COURTS INVALIDATED AN EXECUTIVE DECREE AND ORDERED ARRESTS OF A NUMBER OF FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS. TRADE UNION FREEDOM WAS GREATER THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE RECENT PAST. STRIKES OCCURRED, INCLUDING TWO NATIONAL STRIKES, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL.

THERE WERE ALSO MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS DURING THE YEAR. THE STATE OF SIEGE PROVISION, WHICH HAD PERMITTED THE CURTAILMENT OF MANY CIVIL AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS SINCE 1976, WAS LIFTED IN OCTOBER AND THE REMAINING PRISONERS HELD WITHOUT TRIAL UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE WERE RELEASED DURING 1983 OR REMANDED TO CIVILIAN COURTS. IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON DECEMBER 10, PRESIDENT ALFONSIN CALLED FOR "THE DISMANTLING OF THE STATE'S REPRESSIVE MACHINERY."

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PAGE 03 STATE 031575

THE MAIN AREAS OF CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TERRORIST AND ANTITERRORIST ACTIVITIES OF PREVIOUS YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE, EARLY IN 1983 A FEDERAL JUDGE AND AN EDITOR LEFT THE COUNTRY, CLAIMING THAT THEIR LIVES HAD BEEN THREATENED BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE CRIMES COMMITTED BY SECURITY FORCES. THREE MEN WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TERRORISM OF THE 1970S WERE KILLED, REPORTEDLY IN GUN FIGHTS WITH THE POLICE, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE WITNESSES IN TWO OF THE CASES WHO STATED THEY HAD BEEN ABDUCTED, ALLEGEDLY BY SECURITY FORCES. THE FEW CASES WHERE MAGAZINES OR ELECTRONIC MEDIA WERE CENSORED WERE RELATED TO ATTEMPTS

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF THE "DISAPPEARED" IN A WAY-THAT
TENDE TO DISCREDIT THE ARMED FORCES.

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, THERE WERE NO CONFIRMED
PERMANENT DISAPPEARANCES IN 1983. HUMAN RIGHTSGROUPS
CONTINUED TO DEMAND A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING FOR PAST
DISAPPEARANCES AND PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE. THE
MILITARY GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED ITS "FINAL REPORT" ON APRIL

28, WHICH SAID THAT ALL SO-CALLED "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS
WERE DEAD, IN HIDING, OR LIVING IN EXILE. IT
SUBSEQUENTLY PROMULGATED A LAW GRANTING AN AMNESTY TO
THOSE WHO HAD COMMITTED CRIMES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SO
CALLED "DIRTY WAR," AGAINST TERRORISM AND A STRICT NEW
ANTI-TERRORISM LAW. ON DECEMBER 27, PRESIDENT ALFONSIN
SIGNED INTO LAW LEGISLATION APPROVED EARLIER BY BOTH
HOUSES OF CONGRESS REPEALING THE AMNESTY LAW. IN
ADDITION, PRESIDENT ALFONSIN DECREED IN DECEMBER THE
CREATION OF A 16-MEMBER NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE
DISAPPEARANCE OF PERSONS TO HELP CLARIFY THE FATE OF
PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED. ALFONSIN ALSO ORDERED THE ARMED
FORCES SUPREME COUNCIL TO TRY ALL NINE LEADERS OF THE
MILITARY GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1976-1982 FOR
"HOMICIDE, ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT, AND TORTURE OF
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PAGE 04 STATE 031575

PRISONERS" AND ORDERED THAT LEGAL ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST
SEVEN TERRORIST LEADERS FOR THEIR CRIMES DURING THAT SAME
PERIOD.

ARGENTINA WAS BESET BY A NUMBER OF SEVERE ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS IN 1983. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ALTERED ITS
EARLIER ECONOMIC POLICIES BY REDUCING ITS RELIANCE ON THE
FREE MARKET IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH AN ANNUAL RATE OF
INFLATION OF APPROXIMATELY 400 PERCENT AND A LARGE
SHORT-TERM FOREIGN DEBT. NEVERTHELESS, ARGENTINA'S
POPULATION OF 29.6 MILLION HAD A PER CAPITA GROSS
NATIONAL PRODUCT OF OVER \$4,000. REAL WAGES INCREASED BY
OVER 20 PERCENT IN 1983.

IN SUMMARY, ARGENTINA MADE DRAMATIC PROGRESS IN HUMAN
RIGHTS IN 1983. IN LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR, THE COUNTRY
WENT FROM A MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO A FUNCTIONING
DEMOCRACY, COMPLETE WITH AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, A FREE
PRESS, AND A STRONG OPPOSITION.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SECTION 1 RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

A. UNLAWFUL OR ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

THE INCREASING ACTIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS
AND THE ACTIVE ROLE OF THE PRESS INCREASED THE
CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED PROTECTION OF LIFE AND OTHER
RIGHTS IN 1983. NEVERTHELESS, BETWEEN DECEMBER 1982 AND
DECEMBER 1983 THERE WERE AT LEAST FOUR DEATHS THAT HUMAN
RIGHTS GROUPS CLAIMED WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. IN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 05 STATE 031575

DECEMBER 1982 A DEMONSTRATOR WAS KILLED DURING AN

ANTI-GOVERNMENT RALLY IN BUENOS AIRES. ALTHOUGH THERE
WAS AN INVESTIGATION, NO ONE WAS INDICTED. THREE OTHER
PERSONS DIED IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN APRIL AND MAY
IN WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED WERE GUN BATTLES WITH THE
POLICE. ALL THREE DEATHS WERE INVESTIGATED BY THE
COURTS. THREE POLICEMEN WERE DETAINED FOR FIVE MONTHS IN
CONNECTION WITH ONE OF THE CASES BUT WERE RELEASED IN
OCTOBER FOR LACK OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. THERE ARE
ALLEGATIONS THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE POLICE OR
MILITARY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS, AND THAT THE
VICTIMS WERE KILLED BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN MONTONERO
TERRORIST LEADERS.

3. DISAPPEARANCE

NO ONE DISAPPEARED PERMANENTLY IN ARGENTINA IN 1983 FOR
THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR, BUT SOME PERSONS WERE
ABDUCTED. THEY WERE EVENTUALLY RELEASED WITHIN AT MOST A
FEW DAYS BUT SOME REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN
INTERROGATED AND BEATEN. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT
DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABDUCTIONS AND
DENOUNCED THEM, IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THEY HAD BEEN
THE WORK OF INDIVIDUALS WITH LINKS TO THE POLICE OR
MILITARY WHO WERE OPERATING OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF THE
GOVERNMENT. THE COURTS CONTINUED INVESTIGATING SUCH
CASES.

SOME PERSONS WHO DISAPPEARED TEMPORARILY WERE BELIEVED TO

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY THEIR LABOR UNION OR POLITICAL ENEMIES. IN OTHER CASES, INDIVIDUALS WHO DISAPPEARED ACTUALLY LEFT ARGENTINA FOR PERSONAL REASONS, WITHOUT INFORMING THEIR FAMILIES OR FRIENDS, LATER REAPPEARING ABROAD. AMONG THEM WAS RUBEN ALVAREZ, THE INTRANSIGENT PARTY CANDIDATE FOR PROVINCIAL DEPUTY IN SALTA PROVINCE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 06 STATE 031575

WHO SUBSEQUENTLY APPEARED ALIVE AND WELL IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL. HIS "DISAPPEARANCE" PROVOKED LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS FROM LEADERS OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES.

ACCOUNTING FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DISAPPEARED BETWEEN 1973 AND 1980 CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE IN 1983. CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT REMAINS AS TO HOW MANY PERSONS DISAPPEARED. THE MOST CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED LIST, COMPILED BY THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN 1979, CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 5,000 NAMES, BUT OTHER ESTIMATES ARE MUCH HIGHER. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ARE USING A COMPUTER TO RECONCILE THE INFORMATION AND PREPARE AN UPDATED LIST. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 28 ISSUED A "FINAL REPORT" WHICH SAID THAT ALL "DISAPPEARED" PERSONS SHOULD BE PRESUMED TO BE DEAD, IN HIDING, OR LIVING IN EXILE.

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN ON DECEMBER 15 DECREED THE CREATION OF A 16-MEMBER NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PERSONS TO HELP TO CLARIFY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED. THE DECREE INVITED EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS TO APPOINT THREE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMISSION. THE 10 OTHER MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, ARE WELL-KNOWN SUPPORTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE COMMISSION'S TASKS WILL INCLUDE RECEIVING CHARGES AND EVIDENCE CONCERNING CASES OF PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED, WHICH THE COMMISSION WILL SUBMIT TO THE COURTS; INVESTIGATING THE WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING PERSONS; ESTABLISHING THE WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING CHILDREN; AND DENOUNCING IN THE COURTS ANY ATTEMPTS TO CONCEAL, STEAL, OR DESTROY EVIDENCE RELATED TO DISAPPEARANCES.

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

PAGE 07 STATE 031575

THE COMMISSION IS TO PRODUCE A FINAL REPORT WITHIN 180 DAYS. THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO REQUEST WRITTEN INFORMATION FROM ANY GOVERNMENT, ARMED FORCES, OR SECURITY PERSONNEL SOURCE, WHO WILL BE OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE REPORTS, DATA, AND DOCUMENTS.

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT SAID THAT IT HAD PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION TO FAMILY MEMBERS IN APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF THE CASES OF PERSONS WHOSE DISAPPEARANCES WERE REPORTED TO IT BETWEEN 1974 AND 1982. A HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, COMMISSIONED A STUDY IN 1983 OF 1,100 FAMILIES OF PERSONS WHO HAD DISAPPEARED. ONLY 18 OF THE 607 FAMILIES THAT RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES HAD RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION, AND ONLY TWO OF THEM HAD BEEN ABLE TO RECOVER THE REMAINS OF THEIR RELATIVES. NONE OF THE 18 FAMILIES HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED; THEY HAD OBTAINED THE INFORMATION EITHER UNOFFICIALLY OR THROUGH THE PRESS. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCES IN FIGURES BY NOTING THAT, OF THOSE PERSONS REPORTED AS DISAPPEARED TO THE MINISTRY, IT HAD REPLIED TO 1,434 THAT THE PERSONS SOUGHT WERE IN PRISON, IN EXILE, OR HAD RETURNED HOME. THE MINISTRY MAINTAINS THAT FEW OF THESE BASICALLY CLOSED CASES WERE LIKELY TO BE AMONG THE ACTIVE GROUP-SAMPLED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION.

COURTS CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE CASES OF UNMARKED GRAVES, AND SOME EXHUMED CORPSES WERE IDENTIFIED AS INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD DISAPPEARED. IN NOVEMBER, THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD COMPENSATE PRIVATE CITIZENS FOR DAMAGES CAUSED IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMES

COMMITTED BY SUBVERSIVES OR TERRORISTS OR BY SECURITY PERSONNEL FIGHTING THEM. THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES VOTED TO REPEAL THE AMNESTY LAW ON DECEMBER 16, AND THE SENATE SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED SUIT. PRESIDENT ALFONSIN SIGNED -

[REDACTED]
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PAGE 08 STATE 031575

THE LEGISLATION REPEALING THE LAW DECEMBER 27.

1. TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 6

CLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 7

Channel: n/a

THE CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS THE USE OF TORTURE. NEVERTHELESS, SOME ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE OF TORTURE BY POLICE OFFICIALS AND PRISON GUARDS IN 1983. THE MOST PREVALENT FORM OF TORTURE REPORTED WAS BEATING, -BUT THE USE OF ELECTRIC SHOCK WAS ALSO ALLEGED.

DURING 1983 THE COURTS INCREASED THEIR EFFORTS TO CURB THE USE OF TORTURE. ONE COURT BOTH REMOVED A JUDGE FROM OFFICE AND BARRED HER FROM HOLDING ANY OFFICE AFTER FINDING HER GUILTY IN JULY OF PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE, INCLUDING FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF TORTURE. IN MARCH, 10 PRISON OFFICIALS AND GUARDS OF THE POSADAS PROVINCE PENITENTIARY SERVICE, INCLUDING THE PRISON DIRECTOR, WERE SENTENCED TO SERVE FROM 2 TO 18 YEARS IN THE PRISON WHERE THEY HAD TORTURED AN INMATE TO DEATH IN 1979. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE COURT INVESTIGATIONS OF CHARGES OF TORTURE BY THE TUCUMAN PROVINCIAL POLICE AND BY PRISON GUARDS IN THE SALTA PROVINCE PENITENTIARY, WITH PREVENTIVE DETENTIONS OF NINE TUCUMAN POLICE AND 20 SALTA PRISON GUARDS WHILE THE INVESTIGATIONS WERE CONDUCTED. IN DECEMBER, PRESIDENT ALFONSIN SUBMITTED A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO CONGRESS TO MAKE TORTURE A CRIME LIABLE TO THE SAME PUNISHMENT AS MURDER, I.E., LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THROUGHOUT 1983 REFORMS INITIATED IN 1980 WERE IMPLEMENTED WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PRISON CONDITIONS FOR PEOPLE DETAINED ON SECURITY GROUNDS. ALL DETAINEES WHO HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN TRIED OR WERE NOT IN-

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PAGE 09 STATE 031575

TRIAL STATUS WERE RELEASED DURING THE YEAR. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT POLITICAL DETAINEES WERE CONSISTENTLY TREATED MORE HARSHLY THAN OTHER INMATES. THEY SAID THAT STRICTER VIGILANCE, FEWER FACILITIES FOR EXERCISE AND REST, AND INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE REPORTEDLY LED TO GREATER PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL STRAINS ON THE POLITICAL DETAINEES THAN ON COMMON PRISONERS. THESE CHARGES WERE SUPPORTED BY STATEMENTS MADE TO THE PRESS BY DETAINEES RELEASED IN OCTOBER, ALTHOUGH MOST OF THEM REFERRED TO CONDITIONS IN EARLIER YEARS.

HAD PRISON CONDITIONS BECAME MORE OF A PUBLIC ISSUE IN 1983, PARTLY BECAUSE THE PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY ALLOWED MORE CRITICISM AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF PROTESTS,

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 7

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 8
Channel: n/a

HUNGER STRIKES, AND RIOTS IN SOME OF THE PRISONS. IN FEBRUARY, ABOUT 300 INMATES OF THE SALTA PROVINCE PENITENTIARY PROTESTED AGAINST ILL TREATMENT AND DEMANDED THAT A JUDGE INVESTIGATE THEIR CLAIMS. THEY REPEATED - ACCUSATIONS OF IRREGULARITIES MADE BY A SOCIAL WORKER IN NOVEMBER 1982 WHICH HAD NOT LED TO AN INVESTIGATION. THE SALTA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION, AND THE PENITENTIARY DIRECTOR RESIGNED.

INMATES IN SEVERAL PRISONS WENT ON HUNGER STRIKES TO PROTEST POOR FOOD AND MEDICAL TREATMENT, LACK OF WARM CLOTHING, AND EXCESSIVELY CROWDED CONDITIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, AT LEAST TWO FEDERAL JUDGES INSPECTED SOME OF THE PRISONS WHERE HUNGER STRIKES HAD OCCURRED. IN APRIL, A GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE REJECTED MOST OF THE CHARGES THAT HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC ABOUT THE BAD CONDITIONS IN CASEROS PRISON IN BUENOS AIRES. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT FOR 1,317 PRISONERS THERE WERE 26 DOCTORS IN THE PRISON HOSPITAL, WHICH HAD MODERN AND - COMPLETE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, WHILE THE KITCHEN WAS THE NEWEST OF THE ARGENTINE PRISON SYSTEM.

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PAGE 10 STATE 031575

RIOTS BROKE OUT IN THREE PENITENTIARIES IN NOVEMBER AS INMATES DEMANDED A REDUCTION IN THEIR SENTENCES, FASTER PROCESSING OF THEIR CASES IN THE COURTS, AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN PRISON CONDITIONS. IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPTEMBER PROMULGATION OF THE AMNESTY LAW FOR SUBVERSIVES, COMMON CRIMINALS EVIDENTLY DETERMINED THAT THEY TOO SHOULD BE FREED OR HAVE THEIR SENTENCES REDUCED. AT LEAST THREE PRISONERS DIED, MANY OTHERS WERE WOUNDED, AND ABOUT 30 GUARDS WERE INJURED WHEN THE PRISON GUARDS AND POLICE STORMED OLMOS PRISON TO FREE HOSTAGES AND RESTORE ORDER. PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S DECEMBER PACKAGE OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO CONGRESS INCLUDED SUGGESTIONS FOR PRISON REFORM, FOR SPEEDING UP COURT PROCEDURES, AND FOR REFORMING BOTH THE CRIMINAL AND MILITARY CODES OF JUSTICE (E.G., RESTRICTING BAIL AND THE APPLICATION OF THE MOST LENIENT LAW, ALLOWING HABEAS CORPUS IN CASES OF CIVILIANS TRIED BY MILITARY COURTS, AND ALLOWING THE RIGHT OF APPEAL AND CIVILIAN-TYPE PROCEDURES FOR THE DEFENSE IN COURT MARTIALS).

4. ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTION, OR EXILE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 8

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 9

Channel: n/a

THE ARGENTINE PENAL CODE GIVES THE POLICE AND COURTS
AUTHORITY TO DETAIN PERSONS INCOMMUNICADO FOR UP TO EIGHT

DAYS. EVEN IN THE CASE OF MINOR OFFENSES, HOLDING OF
SUSPECTS INCOMMUNICADO FOR A FEW DAYS IS COMMON. THE
CONSTITUTION ALSO CONFERS POWER ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
TO DETAIN PERSONS INDEFINITELY UNDER A STATE OF-SIEGE,
WHICH WAS INVOKED IN 1974 AND NOT LIFTED UNTIL OCTOBER
29, 1983.

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 11 STATE 031575

FROM 1974 TO 1982, OVER 8,700 PERSONS SUSPECTED OF
TERRORISM OR SUBVERSION WERE DETAINED UNDER STAGE OF
SIEGE POWERS, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.
DURING 1983, THE REMAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD
WITHOUT TRIAL UNDER STATE OF SIEGE POWERS WERE RELEASED.
THOSE IN THE TRIAL PROCESS OR SENTENCED BY A COURT-
CONTINUED TO BE HELD UNDER CIVIL LAWS. THE MINISTRY OF
THE INTERIOR ALSO SAID THAT ANOTHER 291 INDIVIDUALS,
DESCRIBED BY THE MINISTRY AS "SUBVERSIVES," WERE SERVING
SENTENCES AT THE END OF NOVEMBER AFTER HAVING-BEEN-TRIED
UNDER ORDINARY CIVILIAN OR MILITARY PENAL CODES-RATHER-
THAN STATE OF SIEGE POWERS. SOME COURTS BEGAN ORDERING
THE RELEASE OF A FEW SUCH PRISONERS UNDER THE AMNESTY LAW
PRIOR TO ITS REPEAL. UNDER THE ALFONSIN GOVERNMENT THE
COURTS BEGAN ORDERING THE RELEASE OF CIVILIANS CONVICTED
BY MILITARY COURTS, FINDING THAT SUCH TRIALS WERE ILLEGAL.

1. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

THE CIVILIAN JUDICIARY DISPLAYED MORE INDEPENDENCE IN
1983. FOR EXAMPLE, FEDERAL JUDGE OSCAR SALVI ORDERED THE
ARREST OF RETIRED NAVY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND FORMER
MUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA IN JUNE FOR ALLEGEDLY
COVERING UP A CRIME. MASSERA, AN ANNOUNCED PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE, WAS HELD WITHOUT BAIL BUT WAS BROUGHT INTO
COURT SEVERAL TIMES. JUDGE SALVI, WHO HANDLED A NUMBER
OF SENSITIVE CASES, RECEIVED DEATH THREATS BUT OBTAINED
POLICE BODYGUARDS AND CONTINUED WORKING. HIS PREDECESSOR
LED THE COUNTRY IN JANUARY 1983 AFTER RECEIVING-DEATH
THREATS. OTHER JUDGES WERE ALSO THREATENED DURING-THE
YEAR. ALTHOUGH SOME JUDGES DECLARED THEMSELVES NOT
COMPETENT IN CERTAIN CASES, MOST CONTINUED SERVING AND
INVESTIGATING SUCH MATTERS AS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 9

1984 STATE 031575

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 10
Channel: n/a

ARGENTINE ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE, A RIGHT-WING TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. THE COURT INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLIANCE RESULTED IN THE ARREST AND INDICTMENT IN NOVEMBER OF THE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 12 STATE 031575

FORMER CHIEF OF STATE INTELLIGENCE, GENERAL OTTO PALADINO, AND SEVERAL OTHER SUSPECTS FOR "ILLICIT ASSOCIATION" WITH THE ALLIANCE.

ALL RULINGS BY LOWER COURTS, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, MAY BE APPEALED TO THE SUPREME COURT, WHICH IN 1983 WAS MORE

DISPOSED TO ACCEPT SUCH APPEALS. IN MARCH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUPREME COURT DECLARED INVALID A 1976 GOVERNMENT DECREE UNDER WHICH A FORMER SENATOR HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR TIES TO SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS AND HELD AS A POLITICAL-PRISONER BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO GO INTO EXILE IN 1977. THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ALLOWED THE SENATOR TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA, WHICH HE DID IN JUNE.

THE SUPREME COURT BECAME MORE ACTIVE IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS HELD ON SECURITY GROUNDS. LOWER CIVILIAN COURTS ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR CONSIDERATION OF HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS FOR PERSONS DETAINED UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE POWERS. A FEDERAL COURT DECISION IN AUGUST 1982 THAT "CITIZENS CAN NO LONGER BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM FOR SECRET REASONS" APPEARED INCREASINGLY TO INFLUENCE LOWER COURT RULINGS IN 1983.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WERE, NEVERTHELESS, DISAPPOINTED WITH SOME OF THE RULINGS OF THE SUPREME COURT. THE COURT, FOR INSTANCE, DECIDED IN JUNE NOT TO TRY TO DETERMINE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS OF UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS BURIED IN A BUENOS AIRES CEMETERY WHO WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GOVERNMENT-SECURITY FORCES DURING THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION IN PREVIOUS YEARS. INSTEAD, THE COURT LIMITED ITS [REDACTED]
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PAGE 13 STATE 031575

INVESTIGATION TO THE MORGUE PROCEDURES FOR AUTOPSIES AND

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 10

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 11
Channel: n/a

BURIALS AND CONCLUDED THAT THE MORGUE PERSONNEL HAD "FOLLOWED THE REGULAR PROCEDURES USED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS."

THE BUENOS AIRES BAR ASSOCIATION ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT IN AUGUST CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT MAGISTRATES AS "DE -FACTO JUDGES WHO HAVE SUBORDINATED THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION TO THE STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS," I.E., TO THE PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE 1976 COUP.

A NEW ANTITERRORISM LAW PROMULGATED BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER AUTHORIZED SEARCH-AND-SEIZURE BY POLICE TO PREVENT AND PUNISH SUBVERSION, ALTHOUGH JUDGES HAD TO BE KEPT INFORMED. BOTH THIS LAW AND THE AMNESTY LAW, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPEALED BY THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, WERE IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGED IN THE COURTS BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND OTHERS. MANY POLITICIANS ALSO DENOUNCED THE LAWS AND PROMISED TO EITHER ANNUL THEM OR CHANGE THEM IN THE CONGRESS.

PERSONS ACCUSED OF SUBVERSION OR TERRORISM MAY BE TRIED IN EITHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY COURTS, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE APPARENTLY NO MILITARY TRIALS OF CIVILIANS IN 1983. THE ARGENTINE CIVILIAN PENAL CODE PROVIDES FOR OPEN TRIALS, BUT DEFENDANTS CAN BE DENIED ACCESS TO EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM.

7. ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH PRIVACY, FAMILY, HOME, OR CORRESPONDENCE

THE STRINGENT ANTITERRORIST LAW DECREED ON SEPTEMBER 27 ALLOWS POLICE TO SEARCH THE HOMES OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS OR ACCOMPLICES WITH NO OTHER LIMITATION THAN THE OBLIGATION TO INFORM A JUDGE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE

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PAGE 14 STATE 031575

ACTION; TO DETAIN SUSPECTS FOR UP TO 48 HOURS, WITHOUT INFORMING ANYBODY EXCEPT A JUDGE, AND FOR UP TO 15 DAYS WITH THE JUDGE'S PERMISSION; TO TAP TELEPHONES; AND TO OPEN MAIL WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF A POLICE CHIEF. A JUDGE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF SUCH ACTIVITIES WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THEIR OCCURRENCE.) POLITICIANS FROM NEARLY EVERY MAJOR PARTY CRITICIZED THE ANTITERRORIST LAW, HOWEVER, AND ITS REPEAL OR MODIFICATION WILL LIKELY BE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 11

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UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 12

Channel: n/a

CONSIDERED BY THE NEW CONGRESS. ONE OF PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO CONGRESS WAS FOR AN ANTITERRORIST PROGRAM THAT WOULD COMBINE EFFECTIVE PREVENTION WITH BASIC LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO QUICK ORAL HEARINGS IN PUBLIC.

THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS THAT, EVEN BEFORE THE ANTI-TERRORIST LAW WAS ENACTED, THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES ENGAGED IN BOTH WIRETAPPING AND LETTER OPENING AGAINST SMALL SUBVERSIVE GROUPS. HOWEVER, WHEN FOUR POLICEMEN BROKE INTO A PRIVATE HOME IN CORDOBA PROVINCE WITHOUT A WARRANT, THEY WERE TRIED, CONVICTED, FIRED, AND BARRED FROM HOLDING ANY PUBLIC OFFICE OR PUBLIC JOB.

SECTION 2 RESPECT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS

THE TREND IN 1983 WAS CONTINUOUS LIBERALIZATION, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNDER THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. AS THE POLITICAL COMPETITION LEADING TO THE ELECTIONS INTENSIFIED, GOVERNMENT RESTRAINTS ON THE MEDIA LOOSENED CONSIDERABLY. CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY APPEARED - - REGULARLY IN THE MEDIA, WITH HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS, AND PARTICULARLY THE DISAPPEARED ISSUE, RECEIVING

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PAGE 15 STATE 031575

PROMINENT TREATMENT. POLITICAL FIGURES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT APPEARED REGULARLY ON THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA. THERE WAS ALSO EXTENSIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF

ANTI-GOVERNMENT GENERAL STRIKES IN MARCH AND OCTOBER. ALL POLITICAL PARTIES HAD ACCESS TO THE MEDIA TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS FOR MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE OCTOBER 30 ELECTIONS.

SINCE RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS LIVE UNDER RULES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE ACTIVE DUTY FORCES, THEY MUST OBTAIN PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM THEIR SERVICES BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS. SEVERAL OFFICERS WHO DID NOT DO SO WERE - PUNISHED FOR STATEMENTS MADE TO THE PRESS. FORMER RESIDENT AND RETIRED GENERAL LEOPOLDO GALTIERI WAS PUT IN A MILITARY MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISON FOR 45 DAYS BECAUSE OF STATEMENTS HE MADE ABOUT SOME OF HIS FORMER PEERS AND - SUBORDINATES AND THEIR CONDUCT OF THE FALKLAND/MALVINAS

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 12

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 13
Channel: n/a

ISLANDS WAR OF 1982.

EVEN BEFORE THE STATE OF SIEGE WHICH PERMITTED LIMITATIONS ON THE PRESS WAS LIFTED IN OCTOBER 1983, THE LIBERALIZATION WAS SUCH THAT EVEN HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS WERE ALLOWED TO APPEAR ON RADIO AND TELEVISION.

THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED PERIODIC STATEMENTS TO RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS ON SUBJECTS IT CONSIDERED SENSITIVE, SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, JOURNALISTIC COMMENTARY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ESPECIALLY THE "DIRTY WAR" AGAINST TERRORISM OF THE 1970'S. PRINT AND NEWS MEDIA ALSO RECEIVED SUCH WARNINGS IN 1983 BUT NEVERTHELESS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF MANY OF THOSE SENSITIVE ISSUES. THE GOVERNMENT BANNED AND CONFISCATED THREE ISSUES OF THREE DIFFERENT MAGAZINES CONTAINING ARTICLES ABOUT THE "DIRTY WAR" THAT TENDED TO DISCREDIT THE ARMED FORCES. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ALSO ORDERED THE ARREST OF THE [REDACTED]
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PAGE 16 STATE 031575

EDITOR OF ONE OF THOSE MAGAZINES. INSTEAD, HE WENT INTO EXILE IN VENEZUELA IN MARCH AND RETURNED TO ARGENTINA IN OCTOBER AFTER THE ARREST ORDER WAS RESCINDED.

THERE WAS ALMOST NO CENSORSHIP OF ARGENTINE AND FOREIGN LITERARY AND ARTISTIC WORKS IN 1983. THE SPANISH MAGAZINE CAMBIO 16, WHICH HAD BEEN BANNED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN UNCENSORED. CENSORSHIP OF FOREIGN FILMS FOR POLITICAL AND MORAL CONTENT WAS ROUTINE, BUT CENSORS SHOWED INCREASING LENIENCY. ARGENTINE FILMS AND DRAMAS ALSO DEALT WITH SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES.

SOME RESTRICTIONS ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM CONTINUED IN 1983. AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL, THERE WAS AN OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED LIST OF ACTIVITIES, TOPICS, AND TEXTS THAT WERE BANNED FROM CLASSROOMS IN SOME UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENTS, AND POLICEMEN WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHES ATTENDED SOME CLASSES. CONTROVERSY WAS ALSO SPARKED BY THE SELECTION CRITERIA IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

. FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 13

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Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 14

Channel: n/a

SINCE AUGUST 1982, ALL GROUPS AND PARTIES, EXCEPT SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS OUTLAWED FOR ESPOUSING VIOLENCE, HAVE BEEN FREE TO ORGANIZE AND ASSEMBLE. MAJOR RALLIES WERE HELD BY POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, DURING THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT ONCE AGAIN BECAME A MAJOR FORCE IN ARGENTINE SOCIETY. APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE WORK [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 17 STATE 031575

FORCE ARE DUES-PAYING MEMBERS OF THE TRADE UNIONS. DURING 1983, THE GOVERNMENT RESTORED THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND PERMITTED UNIONS TO ORGANIZE, ASSEMBLE, PETITION, AND DEMONSTRATE. FOLLOWING THE 1976 COUP, MANY UNION OFFICIALS HAD BEEN REPLACED BY MILITARY OFFICERS. THESE OFFICERS WERE REMOVED IN 1983, AND ONCE AGAIN-NEARLY ALL UNIONS WERE CONTROLLED BY LABOR LEADERS WITHOUT- - GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE. EITHER ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICERS WERE HELD OR THEY WERE DELAYED BECAUSE- THE UNIONS THEMSELVES DECLARED THAT THEY WERE-NOT READY FOR THEM. THE GOVERNMENT YIELDED TO THE WORKERS' DEMAND FOR A SINGLE GENERAL LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGT) AND PREPARED TO RESTORE ITS FINANCIAL ASSETS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD SEQUESTERED IN 1976. ONE OF PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S- LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO CONGRESS IN DECEMBER CALLED FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF TRADE UNIONS AND FOR GENERAL- ELECTIONS IN ALL UNIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNDER -THE CONTROL OF ELECTORAL COURTS.

WHILE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WAS STILL OFFICIALLY SUSPENDED IN 1983, INFORMAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WAS AGAIN PRACTICED IN MOST INDUSTRIES. THE GOVERNMENT OFTEN ACTED AS A MEDIATOR OR ARBITRATOR.

LABOR AGITATION INCREASED MARKEDLY IN 1983 AS WORKERS ATTEMPTED TO RAISE REAL WAGES WHICH HAD BEEN DEPRESSED BY RECESSION DURING 1982 AND EARLIER. THE GOVERNMENT- RESPONDED TO UNION DEMANDS WITH TOLERANCE AND SIGNIFICANT WAGE CONCESSIONS. THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT LEGAL AND PEACEFUL STRIKES.

MANY UNIONS MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR BODIES SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION- (ILO) AND PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. IN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 14

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 15
Channel: n/a

NOVEMBER, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO EXPRESSED
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PAGE 18 STATE 031575

SATISFACTION TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ABOUT MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND DROPPED THE OUTSTANDING COMPLAINTS AGAINST ARGENTINA FOR RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.

C. FREEDOM OF RELIGION

ARGENTINA'S CONSTITUTION STATES THAT ALL RESIDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT FREELY TO PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION. RECENT - GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUBLICLY AND VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. BY CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, TO WHICH AN ESTIMATED 90 PERCENT OF ARGENTINES BELONG.

OTHER RELIGIONS MUST REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN THE LEGAL RECOGNITION REQUIRED TO OPERATE FREELY IN ARGENTINA. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ARE THE ONLY RELIGIOUS GROUP WHOSE PETITION FOR RECOGNITION, FILED IN 1981, HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED. EVEN SO, ARGENTINA'S 46,000 WITNESSES HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO ASSEMBLE WITHOUT PERMITS OR POLICE INTERFERENCE. PROBLEMS THEY PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS EASED CONSIDERABLY IN 1983. BUT ABOUT 300 WITNESSES, ALL ARGENTINE NATIONALS, ARE UNDER ARREST FOR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE. THE USUAL PENALTY IS THREE TO FOUR YEARS OF CIVILIAN SERVICE AT VARIOUS MILITARY -- INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. CONDITIONS ARE NOT ONEROUS, AND THEY ARE GIVEN FURLOUGHS FOR AS MUCH AS A MONTH AT A TIME.

ARGENTINA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY OF 300,000 TO 400,000
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 19 STATE 031575

PRACTICES ITS RELIGION WITHOUT RESTRAINT, ALTHOUGH OCCASIONAL ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS OCCUR. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF AN OFFICIAL POLICY OF ANTI-SEMITISM. SINCE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 15

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 16
Channel: n/a

THE POLITICAL OPENING, JEWISH LEADERS HAVE ESTABLISHED TIES WITH THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES, HOSTING SEVERAL FORA WITH NATIONAL CANDIDATES DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. IN MAY THE FIRST MAJOR ACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THREE YEARS OCCURRED WHEN THE FRONT OF A JEWISH RESTAURANT IN BUENOS AIRES WAS FIRED UPON WHILE ABOUT 30 PEOPLE WERE DINING. IN OCTOBER THERE WERE TWO MORE SUCH INCIDENTS. NO CASUALTIES RESULTED FROM THESE ATTACKS. IN THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASE IN ANTI-SEMITIC GRAFFITI AND PUBLICATIONS, IN ANONYMOUS THREATS AGAINST JEWISH LEADERS AND SCHOOLS, AND IN THE DEFACEMENT AND VANDALIZATION OF SYNAGOGUES. THERE

WAS ALSO ONE WELL-PUBLICIZED INCIDENT IN WHICH JEWISH SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE VERBALLY HARASSED BY A SCHOOL CLEANING WOMAN. THE GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT AND THE CLEANING WOMAN WAS DISCIPLINED.

D. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL EMIGRATION, AND REPATRIATION

INTERNAL AND FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION ARE BASICALLY UNRESTRICTED. PAROLED POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE USUALLY RESTRICTED BY JUDGES TO THEIR MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE FOR SIX TO NINE MONTHS; PERMISSION TO TRAVEL HAD TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE POLICE TO WHOM THE PAROLEES HAD TO REPORT PERIODICALLY. NO PRISONERS HELD UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS LEFT ARGENTINA IN 1983, PARTLY BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, NO COUNTRIES ISSUED VISAS TO THE FEW PRISONERS WHOSE REQUESTS WERE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ALSO BECAUSE NO PRISONERS WERE STILL HELD UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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PAGE 20 STATE 031575

SECTION 3 RESPECT FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS: THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT

ARGENTINA WAS RULED FROM MARCH 1976 TO DECEMBER 1983 BY THE MILITARY. DURING MOST OF THE TIME THE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE OPERATED AS A JUNTA, SELECTING A MILITARY OFFICER, USUALLY RETIRED, TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT. THE BIGNONE GOVERNMENT, APPOINTED IN JUNE 1982, COMMITTED ITSELF SOON AFTER TO HOLDING ELECTIONS AND TO RESTORING

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 16

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 17

Channel: n/a

CONSTITUTIONAL CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT BY MARCH 1984. IN OCTOBER 1983 A PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TWO SENATORS AND 254 DEPUTIES IN THE BICAMERAL CONGRESS, PLUS PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, LEGISLATORS, MAYORS, AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WERE ALL POPULARLY ELECTED. THE OTHER 44 NATIONAL SENATORS WERE ELECTED BY PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES IN NOVEMBER.

THIRTEEN POLITICAL PARTIES COVERING THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INCLUDING THE-COMMUNIST PARTY, QUALIFIED AS NATIONAL PARTIES AND PRESENTED CANDIDATES. OTHER PARTIES QUALIFIED IN INDIVIDUAL PROVINCES. PARTY ORGANIZING, PRIMARIES, CONVENTIONS, AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS WERE CONDUCTED OPENLY AND FREELY. THE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATED ITS INTEREST AS UP TO ONE MILLION PEOPLE ATTENDED CAMPAIGN RALLIES, AND THERE WAS A SURGE IN SALES OF BOOKS ON DEMOCRACY, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE POLITICAL IDEAS OF THE CANDIDATES. RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS

COVERED THE CAMPAIGN EXTENSIVELY, AND EQUAL FREE TIME ON PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION WAS GRANTED TO THE PARTICIPATING POLITICAL PARTIES. PARTY ORGANIZERS ALSO

PAGE 21 STATE 031575

DISTRIBUTED CAMPAIGN LITERATURE FREELY. THE ELECTIONS FOR ABOUT 14,000 OFFICIALS AT ABOUT 70,000 VOTING PLACES WERE CONDUCTED FAIRLY, WITH FEW ACCUSATIONS OF RAUD.-- FOREIGN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH SENT A GROUP TO ARGENTINA TO OBSERVE THE ELECTIONS, PRAISED-THEM AS BEING FAIR, OPEN, AND HONEST. THE RADICAL PARTY WON -A MJORITY IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, WITH 129 SEATS OUT OF 254; THE JUSTICIALISTA (PERONIST) PARTY HAS-111 SEATS. -IN THE SENATE, THE PERONISTS HAVE 21 SEATS OUT OF 46; THE RADICALS 18. MINOR PARTIES OCCUPY THE OTHER SEATS IN BOTH HOUSES. THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS FOR HALF THE NATIONAL DEPUTIES IN 1985.

WOMEN PARTICIPATE FREELY IN POLITICS IN ARGENTINA, WHICH HAD A FEMALE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON, FROM 1974 TO 1976. THERE WERE SCORES OF WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL CONGRESS (TEN WON -- THREE SENATORS AND SEVEN DEPUTIES), SEVERAL WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR (NONE WON), VICE GOVERNOR OF-PROVINCES (ONE WON), AND THREE WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT (NONE WON).

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 17

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 18

Channel: n/a

SECTION 4 GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ARGENTINA COOPERATES WITH BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UNHRC) AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC), EVEN THOUGH ARGENTINA HAS NOT SIGNED THE AGREEMENT OF SAN JOSE DE COSTA RICA, WHICH GIVES THE IAHRC THE RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE IN ANY SIGNATORY COUNTRY. THE NEWLY ELECTED CIVILIAN PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED IN HIS PARTY'S CAMPAIGN PLATFORM THAT ARGENTINA WOULD RATIFY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH RECOGNIZE THE COMPETENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-

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PAGE 22 STATE 031575

ZATIONS THAT RECEIVE AND STUDY REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO CLAIM TO BE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. AS PART OF PRESIDENT ALFONSIN'S DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO CONGRESS, HE CALLED FOR THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF SAN JOSE, THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS CONTINUED TO VISIT POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING 1983.

THERE ARE EIGHT PRIVATE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN ARGENTINA: THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO; THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES; FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED/DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS; THE ARGENTINE LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN; THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; THE PEACE AND JUSTICE SERVICE FOR LATIN AMERICA; AND THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY WAS CREATED IN 1975 WITH DR. RAUL ALFONSIN, THE NEW PRESIDENT, AS ONE OF THE COFOUNDERS. WITH A MEMBERSHIP DRAWN FROM ALL SECTORS OF ARGENTINE SOCIETY, THE ASSEMBLY COLLECTS AND DISSEMINATES INFORMATION AND ASSISTS FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF THE "DIRTY WAR."

THE GROUP MOST WIDELY KNOWN NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY IS THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO. THE MOTHERS DEVELOPED LOOSELY AT FIRST AS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO IN 1976 BEGAN GATHERING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN THE

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 18

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

Page: 19

Channel: n/a

PLAZA DE MAYO TO INQUIRE INTO THE FATE OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE DETAINED OR HAD DISAPPEARED. THEIR MEETINGS HAVE SINCE BEEN FORMALIZED IN SILENT VIGILS EVERY THURSDAY IN THE PLAZA. LEADERS OF THE GROUP WENT
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[REDACTED]

PAGE 23 STATE 031575

TO EUROPE IN 1983 TO SOLICIT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THE GROUP ALSO BECAME MORE ACTIVE POLITICALLY IN ARGENTINA, SEEKING SUPPORT FROM POLITICAL PARTIES DURING AND AFTER THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS), FOUNDED IN 1978, IS THE NEWEST HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION. AS BOTH A DATA-COLLECTING AND LEGAL-ASSISTANCE AGENCY, IT PREPARES COURT ACTIONS IN CASES OF DETENTIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES, PROMOTES IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH FOREIGN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS OPERATED WITH INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS IN 1983 DESPITE HARASSMENT, SURVEILLANCE, AND AT LEAST ONE EPISODE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE. SOME OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MOTHERS AND CENTER ALSO HAD GRAFFITI SPRAYED ON THEIR HOMES. OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS REPORTED RECEIVING ANONYMOUS THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS. WITH THE GENERAL TREND TOWARD POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION, A NUMBER OF PROMINENT ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS BEGAN TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN ISSUES FORMERLY ESPOUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR UNIONS, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE HIERARCHY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ADOPTED SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES PURSUED SINCE THE LAST

DECADE BY THE MOTHERS, THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ALSO STEPPED UP THEIR ACTIVITIES AND EXPANDED THEIR EFFORTS IN 1983. THE MOTHERS' WEEKLY VIGILS IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO WERE BROADENED INTO MARCHES THROUGHOUT BUENOS AIRES. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS ALSO TOOK AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE AT POLITICAL CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS. ONE WELL-KNOWN HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER, AUGUSTO CONTE, RAN FOR CONGRESS AND WON A SEAT AS A DEPUTY, CAMPAIGNING ALMOST
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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 19

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 20
Channel: n/a

PAGE 24 STATE 031575

EXCLUSIVELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S 1983 REPORT, COVERING 1982, STATED THAT ITS MAIN CONCERN IN ARGENTINA WAS THE QUESTION OF THE DISAPPEARED, WHICH REMAINED UNRESOLVED DESPITE PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS BY VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS TO DETERMINE THEIR FATE. IT ALSO MENTIONED SEVEN CASES OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ABDUCTIONS IN 1982.

THE FREEDOM HOUSE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER OF 1983 CLASSIFIED ARGENTINA AS "PARTLY FREE" BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. A REPORT BY THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA STATED THAT THE CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA WERE FORMIDABLE BUT THAT THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN KEY INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ARMY, SECRET POLICE, AND JUDICIARY WOULD BE A MAJOR STEP-IN INSURING THE FUTURE STABILITY OF ARGENTINE DEMOCRACY.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL SITUATION

NOTWITHSTANDING A RATE OF INFLATION IN 1983 OF APPROXIMATELY 400 PERCENT, OVER TWO YEARS OF RECESSION, AND AN 11 PERCENT RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT COMBINED, ARGENTINA'S POPULATION OF 29.6 MILLION CONTINUED TO ENJOY A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING. PER CAPITA GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT WAS \$4,409 IN 1981. THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN 1983 WAS 1.6 PERCENT, WHILE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH WAS 70.4 YEARS IN 1980. THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE WAS 35.6 PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS IN 1983, WHILE 66 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION HAD ACCESS TO SAFE WATER IN 1975.

REAL WAGES INCREASED BY OVER 20 PERCENT IN 1983, DESPITE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 25 STATE 031575

INFLATION AND THE LENGTHY RECESSION. THE MINIMUM WAGE, FAMILY ALLOWANCES, RETIREMENT, AND OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS WERE INCREASED IN 1983 GENERALLY BY MORE THAN THE RATE OF INFLATION.

OUTSIDE OF BUENOS AIRES AND OTHER MAJOR URBAN CENTERS, WOMEN ARE OFTEN CONFINED TO A ROLE DEFINED BY

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 20

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1984STATE031575

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 21
Channel: n/a

ARGENTINE/LATIN TRADITION. IN URBAN AREAS, HOWEVER, WHERE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ARE SUPERIOR TO THOSE IN RURAL AREAS AND SOCIETY IS MORE OPEN TO - MODERN TRENDS, WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN MOST PROFESSIONS. MARRIED WOMEN LIVING IN ARGENTINA MUST HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THEIR HUSBANDS TO TRAVEL ABROAD WITH THEIR MINOR CHILDREN IF THE HUSBAND IS NOT ACCOMPANYING THEM.

IN THE LARGELY MIDDLE-CLASS SOCIETY, 80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION LIVES IN URBAN AREAS, AND AT LEAST 65 PERCENT OWN THEIR HOMES. THE AVERAGE ARGENTINE ENJOYS A HEALTHY, HIGH-PROTEIN DIET WHICH PROVIDED 124 PERCENT OF THE DAILY CALORIC REQUIREMENTS IN 1977. THE ADULT LITERACY RATE IN 1970 WAS 93 PERCENT, AND THE ADJUSTED PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATIO WAS 110 PERCENT IN 1977. IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES, WHERE APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE NATION'S POPULATION RESIDES, 93.6 PERCENT -OF THE 12-YEAR-OLD POPULATION WAS ATTENDING SCHOOL AT THE TIME OF THE 1980 CENSUS, 1.7 PERCENT HAD ALREADY GRADUATED, - AND LESS THAN 1 PERCENT HAD NEVER ATTENDED. END TEXT.
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Page: 21